Socialist Worker says

Fight this rotten productivity plan

IRISH RAIL have begun suspending workers as they try to force through the new productivity plan.

The new plan means:

- Complete flexibility with no safeguard of status or working practises;
- Changes in rosters;
- A blank cheque to management to change working practises as they see fit.
- The introduction of one person freight trains with no guard. This presents Irish Rail workers and the public with an obvious safety hazard.

This comes on top of the already understaffed stations around the country.

This rotten plan has been rejected by 3 to 1 overall in ballots of Irish Rail workers.

The company says the deal will save them £3m a year. But this is just a drop in the ocean when measured against the chronic underfunding of the rail network by the government over the years.

For example, the Sligo line is grinding to a halt and is only kept going by cannibalising other lines for old rails.

The *Sunday Press* recently reported that the Fianna Fail/ Labour government has given Irish Rail bosses full backing to

attack workers' conditions.

They say they want Irish Rail workers to bite the bullet like Aer Lingus workers were forced to. The fact that the Labour Party is prepared to support such an attack on workers is a betrayal of scandalous proportions.

This plan must be fought!

Dublin Bus workers last year were faced with a cost cutting package. 60 workers were suspended for not implementing the scheme. But because the dispute was allowed to drag on, allowing the service to deteriorate without an all-out strike, the workers ended up being forced to accept the package.

On the other hand Air France won last year. The workers fought with a militant strike and occupied the run-ways. They forced the French government to back down on its flexibility plan. This shows that a concerted fightback can win.

In order to beat this plan Irish Rail workers should be upping the stakes, demanding their unions respond to suspensions with all-out action.

And we also need a genuine socialist workers party in Ireland that stands on the side of workers against the attacks of the bosses and the rotten sell-outs of Labour. If you would like more details fill in the slip below.

Join the Socialist Workers Movement

If you would like to join or receive more details of the Socialist Workers Movement, fill in this slip and return to: SWM, PO Box 1648, Dublin 8, Tel: (01) 872 2682

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